A ROMAN STORY.

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IN the Conſular State of *Rome* there was a Man eminent for publick Character and ſome Merit, *M. Manlius*, of whom *Titus Livius*, in his *Roman* Hiſtory, gives this Character, *A Man of too high and haughty Spirit, deſpis'd the Senate and Nobility, and one, meaning* Camillus *the Dictator, above the reſt.*

This *Manlius* was not a Perſon without his proper Merit, he had ſaved the Capitol when aſſaulted by the *Gauls*, and was of the firſt of thoſe that, being alarm'd at the gagling of the Geeſe, took Arms and repuls'd the Enemy, and after joining in with *Furius Camillus*, aſſiſted in the great Revolution of his Country, when the *Galls* (*French*) were driven out, and the Liberty of *Rome* were reſtored.

Howbeit *Manlius*, of a turbulent, bold, and crafty Nature, ſoon flew in the Face of *Camillus*, the great Saviour and Reſtorer of his Country, and by his Wiles, his Tricking, and Politicks, gave him no Reſt, endeavouring ſtill to render him odious to the People, inſomuch that he brought the People of *Rome* into the very point of abandoning

bandoning their Country, which they had so happily defended. *Camillus* who, after overthrowing the *Galls*, who he attack'd just as the Capitulation was agreed for the Capitol, and the Gold was weighing out, had restor'd; the Citizens perswaded the *Romans*, in a long Oration he made to them, to rebuild and inhabit their City, which they had once resolv'd to forsake as above, and plant themselves among the *Veij*; and having thus saved them from their Enemies abroad, as well as from ruining themselves at home, he receiv'd the Honours he deserv'd, and was made their Dictator.

Manlius envied him, and always to his Death disturb'd his Quiet, and being made *Tribune*, or Speaker of the Commons, carried on innumerable Intrigues against the Dictator, which render'd his Government very uneasie, and as some said, broke his Heart.

Furius Camillus, for his worthy Deeds both in War and Government, had gained the Affections of the *Romans*, especially the Senate and Nobility, who, Peace being obtained by the finishing the War with the *Volscians*, had decreed the whole Honour of Government in Peace and War to *Camillus*.

Marcus Manlius, says *Livius* the Historian, could not bear the Exaltation of the Dictator, tho' he only should ever be Lord General in the Field, and was now exalted so

high above others, that even those who were created with him in equal Authority, he accounted not as his Peers and Fellows, but used as his Servants and Ministers of State; whereas, says *Manlius*, if Men would weigh aright, and consider every thing duly, *Furius Camillus* could never have deliver'd his Country from the Siege of the *Gauls*, had not the Capitol and the Rock of the Castle been saved by *Marcus Manlius*, before that *Camillus* set upon the *Gauls*, when they were amused with the weighing out the Gold, and a Treaty of Peace, and thought themselves at Peace and Secure: But *Marcus Manlius* chased them away while in Arms, and assaulting the Capitol: There it was, when in their full Pride, says he, that I tumbled them down headlong from the Clift, when the Castle was at the very point of being taken. In *Camillus* his Victory the whole Army had a Share; and tho' he led them on, yet the many *Romans* that assisted him, fought and obtain'd the Victory by *their* Valour: but in this Jalons saved the *Roman* State; No earthly Creature was Partner with me in the Hazard or the Victory.

Thus *Manlius* endeavoured to engratiate himself with the People, and to raise Parties in the Common-Wealth: With these Conceits he fed his own ambitious Humour, and puft up his proud Spirit, being withal,

by corrupt Diſpoſition of Nature, inſolent diſcontented, exceeding ſubtile and inſinuating.

After *Camillus* ceaſed to be Dictator, and while yet he thought himſelf not regarded according to his Merit, he turned his Intrigues againſt the Nobility and Senate, ſolliciting and inveigling the Commons to caſt a Liking and Favour towards himſelf, finding Fault with the Nobility, and complaining of them, and, in one Word, chuſing rather to be of Great Name, than of good and honeſt Report; and not contenting himſelf to deal in the Laws of *Agraria*, in which he had a great Knowledge and Learning, and which concerned the Diviſion of Lands, and in which the Commons and Tribunes frequently ruffled and contended with the Government, he began to intermeddle between Debtors and their Creditors, and thereby to overthrow all publick Credit, oppoſed the *Volſcian* War, upon a Pretence that the City was exhauſted by Debts contracted by the Invaſion of the *Gauls*, and the burning their Houſes, and therefore when *Cornelius Coſſa* was choſen Dictator and General for the *Volſcian* War, he, by his Intrigues, brought all Things into Confuſion and Diſorder in the Common-Wealth.

The War wich the *Volſcians* went on with good Succeſs, and the Dictator or great General overthrew their Army, and

took and ransack'd their Camp, and was preparing to carry the War on into the Enemy's Country. But the Distractions at Home called the Dictator off from this happy Prospect of Affairs, and requir'd him to look to the Safety of the Common-Wealth; for *M. Manlius* had by this Time, not by his insinuating Tongue only, at which he was very artful and eloquent, but by Deeds also, shewed evidently, upon what troublesome and tumultuous Spirit all Things proceeded, and that he evidently aim'd at overturning the State, and to model the Government by Schemes of his own.

To make himself popular, he made use of a Party of Bankrupts and old decay'd Soldiers, and profligate hot-headed Fellows, to whom he gave Money to pay their Debts, and employ'd them as Tools to trumpet out his Praises among the People, and at the same Time by them, he heap'd up Slanders and Reproaches upon the faithful Nobility of the City: These seditious Speeches he caused to be spread abroad by his Emissaries and Engines among the People, and in his own House, where certain of the same flagitious People flocked to him, he fail'd not to make Orations to them, as if he had been at the *Forum*, exciting and animating them against the Senate, and against the Dictator, or General of the Army, and against all that had any Hand in the publick

Affairs, particularly raising Scandals and Slanders upon them, without any Regard to Truth or Falshood; and among these, without enquiring, or at all making Proof of the Charge, he let fall these Words; "That "the Senators kept in secret certain hidden "Treasures of the *Gauls* Gold, and were "not now contented to hold in Possession "the Common Grounds, which were the "Common-Wealth's Lands, but they would "also embezzle the publick Treasure, which, "if it were honestly apply'd, the Commons "might soon be acquit and discharged of "the Debts which were now entail'd upon "them and their Posterity.

This Light being given the People, it was no marvel if they took Fire at the Nobility, who had the Ministration of their Affairs, and run into Tumults for the obtaining what they understood they were plunder'd and defrauded of.

They thought it was a great Treachery in the Ministry, that when there was Gold in the publick Stock for the Redemption of their City out of the Hands of the *Gauls*, it should be gathered by a General Contribution of the Citizens, and every Family be tax'd in a Time of such publick Poverty to enrich the Nobility; and that the same Gold, which was recover'd by the Peoples Valour, should be a Prey in the Clutches of a few.

The People therefore crouded instantly about him, and applauding him as the Man who was fitted to bear the Weight of the Common-Wealth as QUÆSTOR, *Late Grassanti Peculatus Pesti Coercendæ*, and THEREBY PREVENT the FURTHER PLUNDERING their City.

There fell out one great Mishap, which at last occasioned the Downfal of *Manlius* himself, and that was, that having thus, as before, possessed the People of *Rome* with a Belief, that the publick Treasure was thus embezzeled, and the City plunder'd by the Senators and Nobility, the Commons came flocking to *Manlius*, to tell them where this great Mass of Money and stollen Wealth was hidden and conceal'd, and who they were that in particular were guilty of the Theft, as well that the Money being discovered and apply'd to the publick Occasions, the Citizens might be reliev'd and spar'd from the publick Contribution that the guilty Persons might be brought to answer it before the People, and might receive due Punishment for such a heinous Offence.

But *Manlius* posted them off from one Day to another, alledging, that it was not yet a Season, or that Things were not yet ripe, but that at this Time or that Time, when it might be convenient, he would disclose all to them: Howbeit, many Days past away, and no such Discovery came to Light,

which gave great Cauſe of Diſſatisfaction to the People, even to thoſe who did no ways doubt or diſtruſt the Sincerity of *Manlius*, who, they believed, had juſtly charged the Nobility: But did not like that, as appertained to Juſtice, the Criminals ſhould have ſo long Time given them to make their Eſcape.

But the Senators, who were thus innocently ſlander'd, took the Matter very heinouſly, and met frequently together, to think of Methods to chaſtiſe the Author of theſe Slanders, and to clear up their Innocence to the People. Howbeit, they thought it not proper to ſtir in the Matter till the Return of the Dictator from the War, and therefore they reſolved patiently to bear all the Injury *M. Manlius* and his Friends and Followers could do them for a Time, and only by their Officers they encourag'd the People to be daily urging *Manlius* to diſcover to them this Treaſure, which he had ſaid was conceal'd from their Knowledge, and to bring the Offenders into the *Forum*, to be judg'd for the heinous Offence of waſting and miſapplying the publick Treaſure.

But *Manlius* not bringing this to paſs, as ſeem'd moſt reaſonable he ſhould, and the War with the *Volſcians* being over for a Seaſon, they ſent for the General to make Speed to the City, to quiet the Sedition; as ſoon as the General arriv'd, he cauſed

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the Senate to be assembled, to whom having disclosed the Occasion of his Coming, and the Resolution the injur'd Nobility had taken to bring this Matter to a publick Hearing, that their Honesty to the Common-Wealth might be made appear, and the Slanderer be brought to Judgment, they all appear'd ready to consent to the Proceeding; Whereupon, while they yet assembled, he caused the *Ivory Chair* of Estate to be set in the *Comitium*, or Hall of Justice, and sent an Officer for *M. Manlius* to appear instantly before the Senate.

Manlius being thus peremptorily summon'd by the Dictator's express Commandment, gave warning by a Watch-Word to his Party, or Accomplices, that he was in Danger, who forthwith assembled at his House, and marching thro' the Streets to gather the Multitude, with a mighty Retinue of his Friends and Followers, he presented himself before the Tribunal; on the one Side sat the Senators and Nobility in their Robes, and on the other stood the Commons, either Part as in a pitch'd Field ready to join Battle, when (after Silence commanded) the Dictator standing up, and speaking to *Manlius*, said;

" Would to the Gods that I and these
" Senators might in all Things accord with
" the Commons of *Rome*, as I am assured
" we shall agree all together about thee, and

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" in the Matter which at this Time I am to
" demand of thee; I see thou hast put the
" City in some good Hope, that by the
" *Gauls* Treasure, which some of the chief
" and the Principal of the Senators detain
" with themselves secretly hidden, all Men
" may keep up the Credit, and discharge
" and pay the publick Debts of the Com-
" mon-Wealth; which I, for my Part, swear
" by the immortal Gods, I am so far from
" hindring, that contrariwise I exact and
" conjure thee, O *Marcus Manlius*, to ease
" the Commons of *Rome* of the Usurers
" Books, (*the Payment of high Interest for*
" *Loan*,) to discover these *Plunderers of the*
" *Nation*, and make them known that gap'd
" so greedily after the Common Treasure,
" and to disappoint them by dispossessing
" them of their Booty (or Plunder); which
" if thou do not effect, either concealing it
" to share a part with them of that unlawful
" Gain; or else because it is but a forged Tale,
" rais'd by thee for thy private, wicked, tho'
" politick Designs, I shall not fail to pass
" Judgment on thee, and suffer no longer the
" People of *Rome* to be abused and imposed
" upon by thee, to their Disquiet and Dis-
" order.

Manlius being allow'd to answer for him-
self, made a long Oration, reproaching the
Senators with carrying on a needless War,
and making a Dictator, without any Neces-

sity

ſity of the Common-Wealth, rather the Patriots of their Country, than againſt the Enemy; for that they had the *Volſcian* War indeed, but that was of no ſuch Hazard, that they ſhould give ſo much Power to one Man, as if the City was in immediate Danger. Then he run out into fine Flouriſhes of his Wit and Oratory, and why, ſays he, do *you not draw the Multitude of Citizens from me, who am their Patron* and Defender? And why do you not deliver them from the Bondage of their unmerciful Creditors, diſcharge the publick Debts, and ſet your Country free? Then turning his Eyes up to the Capitol, ſays he, when you tax me with a Crime for delivering my Country from the Bondage of Uſury; Why do you not as well arraign me for ſaving the Capitol, and freeing you from the Slavery of the *Gauls*?

It was true, that *M. Manlius* had much Merit of his own to plead, but the Dictator obſerving that this was nothing to the preſent Caſe, for which he was arraigned, and brought to the Tribunal, bid him leave off his Victory, and come to the Matter whereof he ſtood accuſed; urging him either to make a true Diſcovery of the Gold that was hid, and of which the Nobility had PLUNDER'D the Common-Wealth, or to confeſs that he had falſly accuſed the Senate, and ſubmit to Judgment for the ſame. He having nothing to ſay to theſe Points,

for he could not make appear the Thing whereof he had accuſed the Nobles, was ſent to Goal, as he deſerved, as being guilty of ſlandering the Senate.

Manlius continued ſome Time under this Confinement, and began to be forgotten very much among the Citizens. But as he had a working Head and a reſtleſs Genius, eſpecially in managing an adverſe Fortune, ſo he managed the People of *Rome* ſo dexterouſly in this Seaſon, that they began to relent; and ſeveral ſtrong Parties were made amoog them, who went up and down exciting the reſt in ſuch Speeches as theſe.

That the Fall of Manlius *was not ſevere only, but cruel; and that it reflected on the People of* Rome *thus hardly to oppreſs one who had ſo great a Share in the Revolution of their Country, and ſo effectually ſaved them from the Inundation of the* Gauls: *Suppoſe he had ſuggeſted ſomething of the Great Ones that could not ſo well be made plain; nay, ſuppoſe he had told them a Lie, what Servant of the Publick was ever puniſhed with Bonds for telling a Lie. But that this was the Cuſtom of the* Romans, *to raiſe their Favourites to a great Height, and then of a ſudden forſake them; that* Sp. Caſſius *and* Sp. Mælius, *who at their own Charge kept the City from Famine, were ſo ſerved.*

Such Speeches raiſed a new Sedition in Favour of *M. Manlius*, and this arole to ſo great

great a Tumult as threaten'd the whole City, the Multitude would receive no Answer, but kept together all Night, threatning the Senate if *Manlius* were not releas'd and restor'd.

The Senate seeing no other Remedy to appease the Multitude, deliver'd *Manlius*, by which they did not at all allay the Sedition, but plac'd the Ring-leader at the Head of his own Faction; for he, obtaining his Liberty in such a Manner, forthwith entred into new Designs for the Overthrow, not of the Nobility and Senate, or Governour only, but for the introducing Tyranny in the Common Wealth; nay even, as was alledged, to the subverting the Constitution of the State, and the making himself a King; for being at once both puft up with his Popularity, and incens'd at his Disgraces, ceas'd not to stir the People up to new Seditions, and at their private Meetings for this Purpose, *Manlius* made long Orations to them of their own Power; how they might with Ease deliver themselves from the Tyranny of the Senate, *Old Ministry*; that they might at once pull down and level with the Ground, the exorbitant Greatness of Dictators and Consuls, and endow the Officers no more; always concluding his Orations with recommending himself to the People, as their Patron and Defender, that restor'd the Citizens, delivered them from Usury, reserved the Common Wealth from immense Debts, and revived the Credit of the publick Treasury, often insinuating that he was their Patron, and resolved to be so; but if they thought fit to bestow any higher Title upon their Deliverer, they should find he was able to improve that Authority for their Good.

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These seditious Practices wrought but too easily in the Heads of the Vulgar, and they all applauded *Manlius* as the Deliverer of his Country, the Saviour of his Citizens, and the only Man fitted by the immortal Gods for rescuing the *Roman* State from all the Miseries into which it was fallen, by the Mismanagements of their former Rulers; insomuch that they began to call it *Manlius*'s Common-Wealth, and to talk of taking to task and impeaching all the old Dictators and Consuls, for plundering their Country, and the embezzelling the *Gauls* Gold was to be brought upon the Stage again, for making Satisfaction for which to the People of *Rome*, the great Estates they had amassed were to be confiscated, and their Persons brought to the Tribunal *Impeach'd*, to answer the Accusations of the Tribunes and People.

This Sedition went to a great Length, and *M. Manlius* now enjoyed all the Greatness the Ambition of his Soul could desire; for he was Dictator, and Consul, and Keeper of the publick Treasure, and every Thing; nay, it began to be said among the Commons, that *Manlius* was Senate and People, and there was no more need of any publick Meetings, either in the *Forum* or the Senate-House, for that *Manlius* was appointed by the Gods for the compleat ordering all the Affairs of the Common-Wealth.

But these seditious Proceedings at length awakened the Senate, who appointed a Consultation to be held with the Tribunes Consular, what was fit to be done in this Exigency: Some were for seizing *Manlius* by Force, and causing him to be immediately led to Execution: But others more prudent, and seeing that such a Course must of Necessity cause much Blood to be shed among

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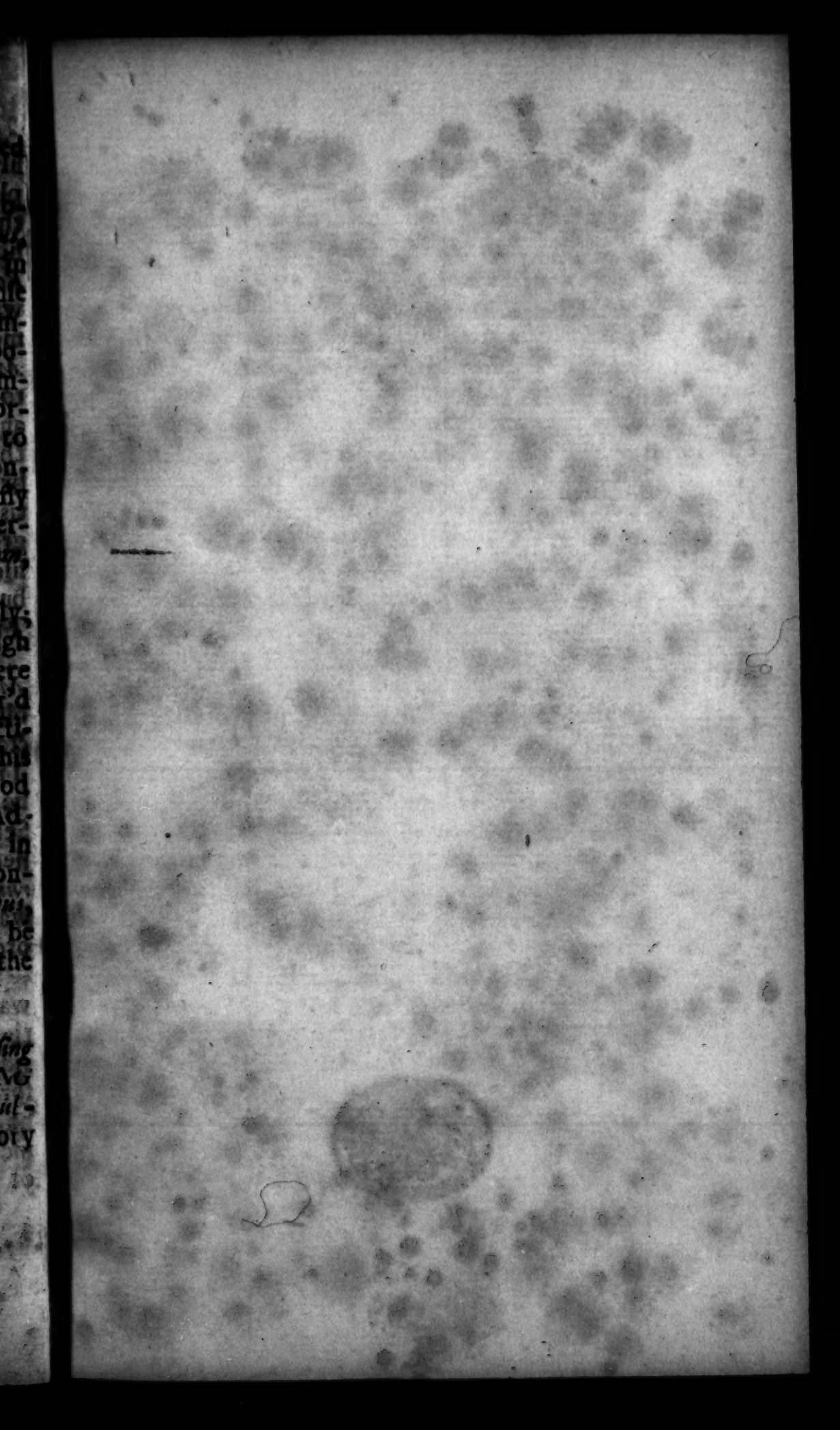
the Commons, who were exceedingly seduced in their new Dictator.

Whereupon one of the Tribunes said to another, what need we think of assaulting *Manlius*, at the Head of his Rabble, which must end in the Destruction of the People, let us make use of the abused People to do the Work themselves; his Merit indeed has render'd him popular, but are not his Crimes against the Common-Wealth: Let us send for him in the ordinary Course of Justice, and bring him to Trial for his Crimes; when he is legally condemned, the People will consider, and not fly in the Face of the Law to rescue him, tho' perhaps at a furious Onset upon him in the *Forum*, they would desperately defend him.

This was approved by the whole Assembly; so they immediately arraign'd him for high Treason, and summon'd him to Trial; where his Crimes against the Common-wealth appear'd so foul, his intriguing to raise Parties and Factions in the City appear'd so black, and his Ambition so exorbitant, that the People stood still and had nothing to say, all his former Advancements serv'd but to sink him lower in their Eyes; and after a full Hearing, he was condemned and sentenced in the *Lucus Petelinus*, and the Tribunes caused the Sentence to be executed, by throwing him headlong down the *Tarpejan Rock*.

So fell the Great M. Manlius, *for falsly accusing the Nobility and the Senate of* PLUNDERING *the Common-Wealth, and* misapplying *the Publick Treasure.* See Titus Livius Rom. History Lib. 6.

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